



# COMMUTER LINES

Volume 13, Number 1

1st Quarter 2006

## DOTD breaks ground for construction of La. 1 bridge

**G**ov. Kathleen Babineaux Blanco and DOTD Secretary Johnny B. Bradberry broke ground March 24 for a new La. 1 toll bridge and approaches that will ensure a safe evacuation route for citizens and continued vitality of Louisiana's offshore oil and gas industry.

At the ceremony in Leeville, the governor said, "The ravages of Katrina and Rita showed everyone in America the importance of Louisiana to this nation's economic health, and just how important La. 1 is to the energy economy. La. 1 is not only the hurricane evacuation route for Grand Isle and southern Lafourche Parish, it's also the main route for Louisiana's vital energy corridor.

"This project is just the first step in a long-term



**Top:** La. 1 floods easily, making it difficult for residents of Grand Isle and southern Lafourche Parish to evacuate. **Left:** From left, Ted Falgout, executive director of the Greater Lafourche Port Commission and chairman of the LA 1 Coalition's Board of Directors, DOTD Secretary Johnny B. Bradberry and Gov. Kathleen Babineaux Blanco break the ground for the first phase of DOTD's LA. 1 project.



effort to help make the residents of this part of South Louisiana safer and to secure our state's – and the

**See LA. 1, page 7**

### ATTENTION ALL DOTD EMPLOYEES

*In the spirit of process improvement, DOTD's public information office is considering switching "Commuter Lines" to electronic-only format. The newsletter would be available on DOTD's Intranet for internal audiences and printed for external audiences. This would save the department about \$700 each quarter. Before making a decision on whether to implement this idea, the public information office would like your input. Please e-mail your thoughts to [sherryldupre@dotd.louisiana.gov](mailto:sherryldupre@dotd.louisiana.gov).*

### ATTENTION ALL NEWSLETTER EDITORS

*In an effort to improve intradepartmental communications, the public information office is working with IT to create a page on DOTD's Intranet on which employees will have access to all of the department's various newsletters. If you design/distribute your section's or district's newsletter, please e-mail the newsletter's name, purpose and frequency to Sherry Dupre at [sherryldupre@dotd.louisiana.gov](mailto:sherryldupre@dotd.louisiana.gov). When the list of newsletters is complete, all contacts will receive instructions on how to get their newsletter online.*

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Bits and Pieces	2	DOTD hires chief of emergency services operations	7
Volunteers transplant prairie grass	3	'Continuous flow' intersection opens in Baton Rouge	9
Bid awarded Phase 1 on Huey Long project	4	News Briefs	10
LA Swift adds new stops	4	HR Hot Topics	14
United Way campaign nets nearly \$20,000	5	DOTD now accepts electronic bids	16

# BITS AND PIECES

JOHNNY B. BRADBERRY, SECRETARY

## Secretary lauds staff perseverance in getting La. 1 project off ground

**E**ditor's note: The following is the speech Secretary Bradberry gave at the La. 1 groundbreaking ceremony in Leeville on Friday, March 24:

*Bonjour et merci pour vous a-ta eceet avec nos aujourd'hui.* For those of you who are Cajun-challenged, welcome to today's ceremony and thank you for being here today.

Typically, at groundbreaking ceremonies, speakers are supposed to remark on how the road or the bridge is

important to the people who live and work in the area. That's really the standard expect-

tation. But there's nothing standard about La. 1. This project really is special. As a native of Grand Isle, I appreciate how vital this project is, and I'm really honored to be here today to take part in this historic event.

If you take all the reasons to build a road or a bridge and stack them together, they all add up to La. 1. Without La. 1, there is no eco-

nomie development in lower Lafourche or Grand Isle. As a hurricane evacuation route, La. 1 is unparalleled in its importance. There simply is no way to safety other than this road. Go through the list – quality of life, ease of mobility, even national security issues. It's hard to imagine a more important project to Louisiana than La. 1.

Anyone who's driven on this road after a good thunderstorm knows how quickly it floods and why we need to move this project

along as fast as possible. And with all of its importance, you would think La. 1 would be one of those proj-

ects that seems destined to happen, a project where everything falls in the right place, the financing fits just right, and the bids come in the way you want them to.

Well, ladies and gentlemen, La. 1 is not one of those projects. Nothing about this project has come easy. We had to fight tooth and nail to get where we are today. But I have to say that every time we

encountered a roadblock, we found a solution to move La. 1 forward.

It took an unprecedented and national-award-winning effort from our environmental team and Michele Deshotels just to get clearance to even plan this road. I want to recognize Michele and her



See BITS, page 6

“IT'S HARD TO IMAGINE A MORE IMPORTANT PROJECT TO LOUISIANA THAN LA. 1.”

— SECRETARY JOHNNY B. BRADBERRY

**SECRETARY**  
Johnny B. Bradberry

**DEPUTY SECRETARY**  
Cedric Grant

**COMMUTER LINES STAFF**  
Mark Lambert  
Cleo Allen  
Sherry Dupre  
Lindsay Ruiz de Chavez



10,000 copies of this public document were published in one printing at a cost of \$1,757.46. This document was published for the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development by the Division of Administration, Office of State Printing. This material was printed in accordance with standards for printing by State Agencies established in R.S. 43:31. Printing of this material was purchased in accordance with the provisions of Title 43 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes.

**ON THE ROAD WITH BRADBERRY  
ABBREVIATED CALENDAR**

**January**

- 3-5 Legislative Public Hearings for the Highway Priority
- 9-13 Netherlands
- 18 CPRA Meeting
- 19-20 Association of Levee Boards of Louisiana 65th Annual Meeting
- 24 LA Swift announcement
- 30-31 Washington D.C.

**February**

- 3 Twin Span Reconstruction Meeting French Delegation of Business Representatives
- 14 Millennium Port Authority
- 24 Hall of Fame/La Good Roads Twin Span Reconstruction Meeting

**March**

- 6 DOTD Goals Workshop Executive Staff Meeting
- 9 DOTD Financial Future Retreat Day
- 12-14 DOTD Financial Future Retreat Day
- 17 Speech: Police Jury Association of America
- 22 Partnership Workshop Meeting (GOCA, DNR, DOTD)
- 24 La. 1 Groundbreaking
- 27 Opening of 2006 Legislative Session
- 28 Army Corps Office – Levee Work Inspection
- 31 Combined Meeting of the UL College of Engineering

## Volunteers transplant prairie grass

**D**OTD partnered with four other agencies to transplant prairie grasses along the west side of U.S. 165 south of Fenton on Jan. 20-21, in an effort to save some of the state's vanishing coastal prairie.

Volunteers from DOTD, the state Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Allen Correctional, the federal Natural Resources Conservation Service and the U.S. Geological Survey removed prairie grasses from what is state right-of-way for the TIMED project to four-lane U.S. 165. Working along with them were volunteers from local environmental groups, the Nature Conservancy, AmeriCorps and Eunice High School.

Roy Dupuy, DOTD landscape architect, said volunteers worked to remove the plants from the right-of-way Jan. 20 and replanted them Jan. 21 at the Duralde Prairie on Parish Road 6-29S. McNeese State University also received some of the plants for its prairie re-seeding project.

Prairies are among four major habitats of major concern in Louisiana (the others being coastal marsh, bottomland hardwoods, and longleaf pine and associated savannahs). The majority of Louisiana's native prairies have been lost. The prairie habitat supports the most



*From left, Charles Allen of the Cajun Prairie Habitat Preservation Society, Patti Faulkner of Wildlife and Fisheries, Sherri LeBas of DOTD and Sherri's son Patrick LeBas volunteer to save some of Louisiana's prairie grass.*

diverse wildlife species of the four major habitats, including insects, grasses and wildflowers.

At one time, coastal prairie extended from Corpus Christi, Texas, to Lafayette in southwest Louisiana, covering an estimated 2.5 million acres in Louisiana alone.

"From those millions of acres of coastal prairie, we're down to less than 100 acres of upland prairie and less than 500 acres of 'wet' prairie now in Louisiana," said Dupuy. "Since the best way to preserve the habitat is through re-seeding, we applaud McNeese's efforts in this area."

One of 16 TIMED (Transportation Infrastructure Model for Economic Development) projects, the 173-mile, \$867 million U.S. 165 project is divided into 30 segments, each of which involves widening the road to four lanes. The segment that includes the prairie grass transplanting under way is the section from I-10 to Fenton. Bids will be let on this section in late 2006.

# Bid awarded on Phase 1 of Huey P. Long project

**D**OTD recently announced the award of a contract for Phase 1 of the Huey P. Long Bridge widening project over the Mississippi River in Jefferson Parish.

Massman Construction Co. of Kansas City, Mo., was awarded the contract for Phase 1 with a bid of \$83.1 million – the lowest of three bids. Since all three bids opened Dec. 14, 2005, were above the DOTD pre-Katrina estimate, a special review was undertaken prior to the award.

DOTD Secretary Johnny B. Bradberry said, “Awarding the first contract for the Huey P. Long Bridge widening project is a significant milestone for the TIMED Program, DOTD and the New Orleans area.

“Despite the increased costs, DOTD is committed to continuing progress on pre-hurricane planned transportation projects while also rebuilding and restoring transportation corridors affected by the hurricanes.”

Hurricane Katrina has had a significant impact on construction costs and schedules around the Gulf Coast. It has increased the demand for contractors, equipment and supplies, which is driving up costs across the southeastern United States.

Phase 1, which began in Spring 2006, will include widening and strengthening the bridge substructure. Drivers should not see any significant construction-related delays because the contractor will perform most of the construction from beneath the bridge.

The completed project will include three 11-foot lanes in each direction, along with new inside and outside shoulders across the bridge. The project also will



*An artist's rendering of the future Huey P. Long bridge.*

include construction of new roadway approaches that will provide signalized intersections at Bridge City Avenue and Jefferson Highway.

The remaining three phases of construction are expected to be let within the next year.

As the project progresses, a public outreach office will be opened in Jefferson Parish to assist residents and business owners with questions and concerns on the project. Additional information is available on the project Web site, [www.hueypbridge.com](http://www.hueypbridge.com).

## LA Swift adds new stops on route to New Orleans

**L**A Swift, the free bus service that transports displaced residents, workers and job-seekers between Baton Rouge and New Orleans, added stops in south Baton Rouge, Sorrento and LaPlace on Feb. 5, giving more displaced residents a chance to re-enter the New Orleans job market.

LA Swift also began offering evening service from Baton Rouge to New Orleans and morning service from New Orleans to Baton Rouge. This

will accommodate employees who work overnight shifts.

FEMA has extended LA Swift through June 30.

The three new stops are: the Home Depot parking lot, 18139 Highland Road in Baton Rouge near I-10; the Chevron Sorrento Super Shop, 7140 La. 22 near I-10; and the LaPlace Texaco and Huddle House Restaurant, 4325 La. 51 near I-10.

Riders should note that LA Swift is not a park-and-ride service.

The new schedules and further details are available online at [www.laswift.com](http://www.laswift.com) or through DOTD's Customer Service Center at (225) 379-1232 or toll-free at 1-877-4LA-DOTD (1-877-452-3683).



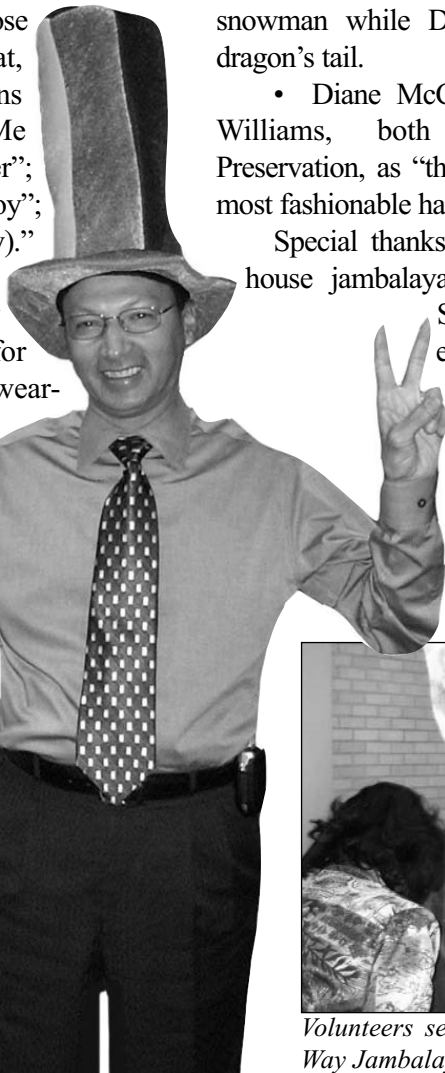
# United Way campaign nets nearly \$20,000

Thanks to the largesse of DOTD employees, a variety of events resulted in nearly \$20,000 being donated to United Way.

A jambalaya and bake sale fundraiser, "Hat Day" donations and pledges brought the amount donated to \$19,617.69, according to Lindsay B. Ruiz de Chavez and Peggy Bueche, Communications Office, campaign coordinators.

Thanks also to Secretary Johnny Bradberry, who was such a good sport about having employees vote to decide which hat he should wear for "Hats Off to You" Hat Day on Feb. 3.

Voters got to choose the Secretary's hat, with the selections being "Throw Me Something, Mister"; "Ride 'Em, Cowboy"; and "Farmer John(ny)." Secretary Bradberry graciously posed for pictures wearing the win-



*DOTD Secretary Bradberry participated in the fundraising campaign. Employees at DOTD headquarters voted on which hat the secretary should wear. "Throw Me Something, Mister" was the winner.*

ning Mardi Gras hat, "Throw Me Something, Mister."

A group shot is available for viewing in the third-floor hallway. And a slide show of the activities can be seen on the DOTD Customer Service Center Intranet site under "Special Events."

Winners of the "Hats Off to You" contest include:

- Priscilla Mire, Operations, the "recycling queen," most original hat.

- Jackie Higginbotham, Operations, and Charlotte Delatour, Bridge Design, who tied for wackiest hat. Higginbotham's hat boasted a snowman while Delatour's was a dragon's tail.

- Diane McClure and Janice Williams, both in Systems Preservation, as "the Blues Sisters," most fashionable hat.

Special thanks goes to our in-house jambalaya chefs, Richard Savoie, deputy engineering administrator, and Terry Cormier, federal aid manager, and to everyone who donated baked goods on Feb. 8.



*Winners of the "Hats Off to You" awards during United Way Hat Day included Priscilla Mire (recycling queen), center; Jackie Higginbotham (snowman hat), right; and Charlotte Delatour (dragon tail), left, tied for wackiest.*



*Diane McClure and Janice Williams (The Blues Sisters) were awarded most fashionable hat during United Way Hat Day at DOTD headquarters.*



*Volunteers serve jambalaya lunches during DOTD headquarters' United Way Jambalaya sale.*

innovative work in making sure this project could be done in an environmentally responsible way.

Once DOTD had clearance, there was still a big problem: We didn't have enough money. So, what did we do? Well, in these parts, we say *Lâche pas la patate*, which means, Don't drop the potato. We didn't drop the potato. Undersecretary Michael Bridges picked up the potato from the previous administration and finished work on securing a TIFIA loan from the federal government. That's an innovative loan that Louisiana has never received before. Michael and his team convinced the Federal Highway Administration and the New York financial community that we could generate enough in tolls to help finance construction. That also took a commitment from the citizens of this area and the companies that rely on La. 1 to service the oil and gas industry and the commercial and sport fishing industries. All of you said, this project is important enough for us to help pay for it through tolls.

Then, last July, the low bid came in \$98 million more than expected. We were back to not being able to afford the project again. But we didn't give up. *Lâche pas la patate*.

We assembled our engineers, put them in a room and said, "Work this problem, and don't come out until you have a solution." To be honest, that's something DOTD employees are not used to hearing.

In the past, we simply would have said, "Well, that's what the project costs, so I guess that's what we'll pay." Instead, I chose to challenge those assumptions and force DOTD to come up with a Plan B. They did, and the team developed a strategy to save us millions, by bidding the project in smaller pieces and using more commonly available materials.

Then, we had two more problems – Katrina and Rita. The hurricanes took every job and every assumption we made about our work and turned them completely upside down. Hundreds of millions

tion by December 2009. That's about three and a half years away. David, I salute you and your efforts to get us to this point.

But you know, it would be a mistake today for us to think that we have arrived. We are not there yet. We still need another \$90 million to build the elevated roadway from Leesville to Fourchon. Plus, none of this includes Phase II, getting from Golden Meadow to Leesville. So, clearly we have a lot of work ahead of us.

It's been suggested to me that, since we have so many private-sector representatives here today, it would be a good time to pass the hat to help raise some of that money. I have a better idea.

What we really need is your continued support. Continue your partnership with the La. 1 Coalition and keep this project in the forefront. Ted Falgout, you and the La. 1 Coalition have done an outstanding job and have created the template on how to pull together community and business support. In fact, when I talk to people who want large projects in their communities across this state, I tell them, "You really want that road? Look at what the La. 1 Coalition did to coordinate support. If you're serious, call Ted and see how to do it." Ted, you and the coalition didn't give up. *Lâche pas la patate*.

Today we have a lot of high-powered and influential people here. Sens. Mary Landrieu and David Vitter, Congressman Charlie

---

**“WE MUST SEND A STRONG MESSAGE THAT COASTAL PROTECTION AND RESTORATION MUST BE OF THE HIGHEST PRIORITY IN BATON ROUGE AND WASHINGTON D.C.”**

**– SECRETARY JOHNNY B. BRADBERRY**

---

of dollars of recovery work were suddenly on the table. We faced double-digit price increases in labor, materials and equipment. Some people didn't think La. 1 made sense anymore. But we didn't give up. *Lâche pas la patate*.

David Miller certainly didn't give up. David is DOTD's project manager for La. 1, and he has remained as determined as I am to see this project through. Despite the problems and setbacks, David and I worked hard to keep this project alive. Today, we break ground on a new Bayou Lafourche bridge, its approaches and connectors. We're scheduled to finish that construc-

**See *PIECES*, page 8**

---

# DOTD hires chief of emergency services operations

**D**OTD has hired its first chief of emergency services operations.

The new fulltime position has been filled by Cindy Montz, former senior planner for the Louisiana Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness. She assumed her duties Feb. 13.

Montz worked for the state's Emergency Preparedness office for 15 years, 10 of them as senior planner, during which she coordinated with state agencies to ensure their readiness by assisting in the development of plans and procedures. She also gained experience in the field during emergencies as part of a search-and-rescue dog team.

Montz attended the University of New Orleans and completed the Federal Emergency Management Administration's professional

development series of emergency management courses.

That training and experience will be beneficial in her current DOTD position, in which she is responsible for establishing a comprehensive emergency management program within DOTD. Her first priority is coordination of transportation assets (buses, trains and planes) in preparation for the upcoming hurricane season since DOTD's task is to provide such assets to transport both people and goods.

Of the fulltime position, Montz said, "Emergency preparedness is a much higher priority now than it has been in the past.

"Prior to hurricanes Katrina and Rita, most state agencies had coordinators, who spent about 5 percent of their time on these



*Cindy Montz gained emergency experience during her time on a search-and-rescue dog team. "Britta" was her K-9 partner.*

issues. Now many state agencies are looking to hire fulltime emergency coordinators, as DOTD has done."

Montz said she sees the same trend at the federal level as well.

---

## LA. 1 (continued from page 1)

nation's – energy future."

La. 1 is the only route to Port Fourchon, the nation's premier intermodal energy port, and to the nation's only offshore oil port. The U.S. Congress designated La. 1 as a "high-priority corridor" because of its importance to the energy industry.

The road must be replaced and elevated because of flooding and deterioration from subsidence and coastal erosion.

Bradberry said, "If you take all the reasons to build a road or a bridge and stack them together, they all add up to La. 1 – economic development, hurricane evacuation, quality of life, ease of mobility, even national security issues. It's

hard to imagine a more important project to Louisiana than La. 1."

Henri Boulet, executive director of the LA 1 Coalition, which has worked for more than nine years in support of improvements to La. 1, called the start of the project "an historic milestone, not only for Lafourche Parish and the state, but for the entire nation."

Actual construction work on the \$161.6 million bridge and approaches should begin in May. The contractor, Traylor Brothers/Massman Construction Joint Venture, is scheduled to complete construction by December 2009. The contract includes a \$5 million incentive for early completion and a \$15,000-a-day penalty

for late delivery.

An elevated roadway between Leeville south to Port Fourchon is scheduled for letting later this year. Another major phase of the project includes an elevated roadway from Golden Meadow south to Leeville. The entire La. 1 project, including the bridge over Bayou Lafourche, approaches, connectors and 18 miles of four-laned elevated roadway from Golden Meadow to Port Fouchon, is expected to cost about \$1.3 billion.

Port Fourchon supports more than 75 percent of the Gulf's deep-water oil production. More than 18 percent of the entire nation's oil and gas supply flows from the La. 1 corridor.



---

## PIECES (continued from page 6)

---

Melancon, State Sens. Reggie Dupre and Craig Romero, Rep. Loulan Pitre, Lafourche Parish President Charlotte Randolph, FHWA Assistant Division Administrator Joe Bloise, Rep. Damon Baldone, Rep. Karen St. Germain, Lafourche Parish Sheriff Craig Webre, Rep. Gordon Dove, Rep. Roy Quezaire, thank you so much for being here to show your

support. And thank you again, Gov. Blanco, for your leadership in supporting and promoting this project. And I'm happy to see Chief of Staff Jimmy Clarke here. Thank you for coming, Dr. Clarke. Ladies and gentlemen, those are the major players here today. Make sure they know where you stand on finishing this project. Don't let today be the last time they see or hear from you.

Do not give up. *Lâche pas la patate.*

As I observe what's has happened to the marshes in the last several decades, I recall what it was like when I was a boy, growing up in a large family. We considered these marshes an extension of ourselves. But you know, this place is different today. The marsh is disappearing. Storms are getting worse. This road floods more than it used to. La. 1 is only part of the solution for Louisiana. We must send a strong message that coastal protection and restoration must be of the highest priority in Baton Rouge and Washington D.C. With the exception of our delegation, do not make the mistake of thinking someone else, somewhere else is worrying about this problem. Believe me, our political leaders have plenty of problems to deal with. You need to make your voices heard. Do not give up. *Lâche pas la patate.*

I leave you today with a question and a challenge. Where will this road take us in 10 or 20 years? Will we continue fighting for La. 1 and to protect and save Louisiana, or will we be somewhere else, swapping stories about the place we used to live, a place that used to be? Stay involved in the process, participate in the public discussion and keep this area in the public's mind. Do not give up. *Lâche pas la patate.*

This is a great day for Louisiana. Let's make sure we have plenty of more groundbreakings to come. *Merçi beaucoup pour venire eceet et may lu. Bon Dieu benisse.* Thank you for coming today, and may God bless all of you.

A graphic with a dark background. On the left, a spotlight shines down, creating a bright circle of light. To the right of the spotlight, the text "Spotlight on Customer Service" is written in a large, white, serif font. Below this, the text "The customer is not always right" is written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font. The rest of the graphic contains white text on a dark background, organized into paragraphs and a list.

**Spotlight on  
Customer  
Service**

**The customer is *not* always right**

We have all heard the expression, "The Customer is Always Right." Well, contrary to what we've heard we know that's not necessarily true; however, *all* customers (internal and external as well) should be treated right.

Our goal is to make customer satisfaction a top priority and cultivate a customer service culture throughout DOTD. So, the challenge is — how do we do it?

This is where we need your help!

We are here to take a proactive approach in providing information that is easily accessible, timely and accurate to the public.

Our customer values are built on:

- Courtesy and respect
- Accuracy
- Responsiveness
- Accountability
- Safety
- Timeliness
- Accessibility
- Quality.

We value openness, consistency, fairness and courtesy in our dealings with *all* customers, including each other as well.

Our focus is external (public) and internal (employees) customers.

The Customer Service Center provides a positive working environment that promotes excellence in customer

---

**See SPOTLIGHT, page 9**



# 'Continuous-flow' intersection opens in Baton Rouge

The first "continuous-flow" intersection, or CFI, in Louisiana and only the second one in the nation opened on Airline Highway at its intersection with Sherwood Forest Boulevard and Siegen Lane.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony to mark the event was held at 11 a.m. March 21 by DOTD and East Baton Rouge City-Parish government.

"We're thrilled to have Louisiana become a trend-setter with this cutting-edge traffic design," said DOTD Deputy Secretary Cedric Grant.

Mayor-President Melvin "Kip" Holden said, "The increased traffic problems in our parish call for innovative solutions that take us beyond the 'status quo' thought process. This design positions us as leaders on the state, national and international levels in highway technology."

DOTD project engineer Phil Graves said drivers on Airline can expect a significant improvement in the time it takes to cross the intersection with the completion of the \$4.4

million project, designed by ABMB Engineers and built by Coastal Bridge.

Mike Bruce, a principal at ABMB, agreed. He said the average delay for each car crossing the intersection during pre-Hurricane Katrina evening rush-hour traffic was 225 seconds, or about 4 minutes. With the opening of the CFI turn lanes, the time elapsed is estimated to be 30 seconds per car — an improvement of almost 90 percent, Bruce said.

The CFI relieves congestion at the intersection by removing the left-turn conflict from the intersection. Instead, motorists making left-hand turns from Airline are routed to a left-turn bay, and the turn is completed using a two-step process:

- Motorists on Airline who want to turn left are routed into a left-turn bay several hundred feet before from the main intersection. When the Sherwood-Siegen cross-traffic light turns green, so does the left-turn bay



Rev. Merlin Liverman, left, of Parkview Baptist Church and District 8 Metropolitan Councilman Jerry "Mike" Walker Sr., right, listen as Baton Rouge Mayor-President Melvin "Kip" Holden, center, speaks about the new intersection.

light, bringing Airline motorists who were in the left-turn bay forward to a second signal.

- Then when Sherwood-Siegen cross-traffic stops on red and Airline through-traffic has a green signal, motorists on Airline complete the left turn onto Sherwood or Siegen.

The CFI here in Baton Rouge is only the second such intersection in the United States — with the other one outside of Washington, D.C., in Maryland. More than 40 such intersections have been built in Mexico, Bruce said.

## SPOTLIGHT (continued from page 8)

service. The peer-to-peer programs presently in place within the department — "Gold Stars," "Traveling Suitcase," "Certificate of Appreciation," "Smile, It May Be the Boss Calling" — reinforce, recognize and reward employee efforts. Information regarding these programs and other pertinent information regarding customer service may be found on the DOTD Intranet site under "Customer Service Center."

We invite all employees to exercise excellence in customer service and join in the vision as DOTD becomes the leader in moving Louisiana forward.

How can you help?

Please answer the following questions and submit your response by e-mail [pbueche@dotd.louisiana.gov](mailto:pbueche@dotd.louisiana.gov) or mail to Room 301D:

1. In what ways do you think customer service can be improved?
2. In your District/Section/Unit/Gang...is customer service a top priority? If so, how is this communicated to all employees?
3. If not, how can it be communicated or instilled in all employees?
4. Comments/suggestions?

---

## News Briefs

---



Cake and soft drinks were served Jan. 17, at a reception to welcome District 02 Bridge City employees who were displaced because of Hurricane Katrina into new FEMA trailers. Deputy Secretary Cedric Grant and District Administrator Tom Payment thanked the employees for their hard work in spite of the difficult circumstances.



DOTD engineer Lloyd E. "Buddy" Porta, P.E., was recently presented with the Louisiana Engineering Society's Engineer-in-Management Award. The A.B. Paterson Medal is awarded for "distinguished service in management by an engineer." Achievements in management rather than engineering or scientific attainments are the primary criteria for the selection for the recipient.



DOTD reopened the two west-bound lanes of the I-10 "twin spans" Jan. 6, eight days ahead of schedule. Secretary Johnny B. Bradberry and Gov. Kathleen Babineaux Blanco cut the ribbon at the reopening ceremony.



Jim Mitchell, IT geographic manager, won the Founder's Award for being instrumental in changing the future of GIS in the South Central United States. The award was presented at the 16th annual South Central ARC Users Conference in Fort Worth, Texas, in February.



DOTD has selected the preferred construction alternative for Interstate 69.

The selected I-69 route heads north from I-20 at Houghton, northeast into Webster Parish, north of Minden, and continues in a northeasterly direction into Claiborne Parish, just southeast of Leton. From there, the route continues north toward Haynesville, crosses U.S. 79 and continues northeast into Arkansas.



## News Briefs



Roland J. Babin, District 03 parish maintenance specialist/engineer technician 7, was honored Jan. 5 for working for the department for 50 years. The ceremony was held at the Clifton Chenier Center in Lafayette, where Babin was congratulated by dignitaries, family, co-workers and friends.



DOTD Secretary Johnny B. Bradberry, top, welcomes Scotlandville Magnet High students Christina Richardson, left, a student interested in employee relations, and China Britton, a student interested in studying human resources and business administration, to DOTD's Groundhog Job Shadow Day.



DOTD employees raised more than \$1,800 through two 2005 "Books Are Fun" fundraisers. Janice Drake, left, DOTD recruiting program manager, presents the check to Scotlandville's Magnet Lead Teacher Beatrice Arvie, right. Students in Scotlandville Magnet High School's engineering program include, from left, Alan Reed, Brandon Bolden and Garrett McKinley.



DOTD hosted Groundhog Job Shadow Day Feb. 2 for the Carville Job Corps Academy. Participants in the program toured various DOTD facilities, including the reproduction room in headquarters.



Louisiana House of Representatives and the Louisiana Senate unanimously passed a resolution Feb. 19 and 20 to commend Secretary Johnny B. Bradberry on his job as secretary of DOTD. Specifically, the resolution, which was sponsored by members of the House and Senate transportation committees, commends him "for the outstanding job he has done and for his integrity and commitment to public service."



# QUARTERLY RECOGNITION AWARDS

(QUARTER ENDING SEPTEMBER 2005)

## Headquarters

**Employee of the Quarter**  
Herbert Piller

**Manager of the Quarter**

James Phil Jones

**Best Team Effort of the Quarter**

Section 42: James M. Bueche, Melvin T. Canty, Charles W. Cox, Ted M. Ewing, Lionel L. Hulbert, Lee Johnson, Stefan M. Popovic, Marcus A. Smith, Robert E. Sullivan and Donald R. Taylor

## District 02 & 03

**Districtwide recognition**

## District 04

**Employee of the Quarter**  
Tena Chadwick

**Manager of the Quarter**

Robert "Bobby" Wheeler

**Best Team Effort of the Quarter**

Hurricane Katrina Debris Removal Team: Curtis Garrett, Athen Ardison, Brandon Baxley, Terry Campbell, John Carte, Isaac Cooper, R. M. Dickerson, Vince Fields, Romerelo Guerra, Grady Hardman, Christopher Holmes, Larry Hughes, James Hutchinson, Robert Kent, Sammy Kirk, James Laird, Grover Lawrence, Thurman Marr, Gary May, Erick Moreno, Thomas Myers, Larry Nelson, Jon Phillips, Russell Pruett, Casey Rogers, Kyle Rogers, James Sadler, Ronnie Salley, Hoston Spencer, Lonnie Stewart, Roy Tubbs, David Wallace, Gary Weems and Timothy White

## District 05

**Employee of the Quarter**  
Walter Brad Smith

**Manager of the Quarter**

Walter Keith Crenshaw

**Best Team Effort of the Quarter**

Workers of Hurricane Rita: Jamie D. Anderson, Joshua R. Beach, Gary M. Brinson, John B. Calhoun, James A. Campbell Jr., Walter Keith Crenshaw, Wesley A. Crump, James E. Davis Jr., Roger P. Easterling, Richard C. Foster, Lonnie N. Green, Tommy James, Clarence K. Johnson, William D. Jones Jr., Darrell Scott McMullen, Billy E. Plummer, Howard E. Reese Jr., Jesse L. Reese, Kenneth D. Rogers, Shelby A. Templeton Jr., Daryl Veach, Phillip D. Wheelis and Richard D. Wright

## District 07

**Delayed**

## District 08, 58, 61 & 62

**Districtwide recognition**

## CCCD

**Employee of the Quarter**  
Eric Hogan

**Manager of the Quarter**

Michael Helmstetter

**Best Team Effort of the Quarter**

Nicholas Carle, Timmy Charles, Sabrina Fuller, Joseph Hoff, Eric Hogan, Clayton Johnson, Richard Kimball, David Sintes, Clem Sparkman, Armand Sullivan, John Tierney, Clarence Troulliet and Gary Verdin

## Technology Transfer

The following became certified inspectors between Dec. 1 and Feb. 28:

NAME	DISTRICT	NAME	DISTRICT
<b>ASPHALTIC CONCRETE PLANT INSPECTION:</b>			
Dennis H. Daniels Sr.	07	Brandon W. Bundick	03
Tony H. Hylton	07	Darrell Wayne Dupre	03
		Joseph R. Guillory	03
		Joseph D. Lafleur	03
		Valarie Dwain Noel	03
<b>EMBANKMENT AND BASE COURSE INSPECTION:</b>			
Emilio C. Garcia Jr.	02	Kyle J. Taylor	03
Roderick P. Guillory	03	C. R. Villejoin	03
Jimmie R. Cowan	04	Robert A. West	03
William E. Driggers	04	Darrell Brown	04
Vincent J. Magryta	04	Jimmie R. Cowan	04
Roger G. Scott	04	William E. Driggers	04
John T. Wilbanks	04	Lloyd L. Hewitt	04
John P. Rieger, III	05	Jerry M. Kilgore	04
Ricky P. Conner	07	Harvey L. McLendon	04
Dennis H. Daniels Sr.	07	Roger G. Scott	04
Tony H. Hylton	07	Danny Ware	04
Shawanda Gaye Sowell	07	John T. Wilbanks	04
Floyd Lynn Chelette Jr.	08	Carl Knight Harwell Jr.	05
Terry E. Oswald	08	Alton Allison Jr.	07
Larry J. Andrews	58	De'Wayne D. Bailey	07
Philip David Andrews	58	Ricky P. Conner	07
Glenn A. Linder	58	Damon L. Cooley	07
Terry S. Maxwell	58	Dennis H. Daniels Sr.	07
G.G. Richardson	58	Sonya Lynette Fontenot	07
Larry Clyde Tucker	58	Herbert F. Aaron, III	08
		Donald D. Forest	08
		F.D. Franklin	08
		Batt Lewis	08
<b>STRUCTURAL CONCRETE INSPECTION:</b>			
Anthony J. Gaudet	03	Ricky P. McCann	08
Neal A. Thierry	03	Terry E. Oswald	08
William E. Driggers	04	Donovan Joseph Tassin	08
Dennis H. Daniels Sr.	07	Larry J. Andrews	58
Tony H. Hylton	07	Terry S. Maxwell	58
Floyd Lynn Chelette Jr.	08	G.G. Richardson	58
David Cloud	08	Larry Clyde Tucker	58
Donald D. Forest	08	Ivy Keith Forrest	62
Terry E. Oswald	08		
Danny M. Welch	08	<b>PORTLAND CEMENT CONCRETE PAVING INSPECTION:</b>	
Terry S. Maxwell	58	Shannon K. Fontenot	03
G.G. Richardson	58	William E. Driggers	04
		Dennis H. Daniels Sr.	07
<b>ASPHALTIC CONCRETE PAVING INSPECTION:</b>			
Murphy J. Dehart	02	Tony H. Hylton	07
Michael J. Ferguson	02	Floyd Lynn Chelette Jr.	08
Sybil Leblanc Maddocks	02	David Cloud	08
Donna Plaisance Mansfield	02	Matthew A. Jordan	08
Barry J. Schaubhut	02	Terry E. Oswald	08
Noble P. Thibodeaux	02	Danny M. Welch	08
		G.G. Richardson	58
		Ivy Keith Forrest	62

# PERSONNEL UPDATES

(DECEMBER 2005-FEBRUARY 2006)

## NEW HIRES

### DISTRICT 02 – NEW

#### ORLEANS

Tara Eugenie James and  
Ronald C. Smith

### DISTRICT 03 – LAFAYETTE

None

### DISTRICT 04 – BOSSIER CITY

William J. Newton

### DISTRICT 05 – MONROE

Randall Lane Hutchinson  
and James B. Wyatt

### DISTRICT 07 – LAKE CHARLES

Ricky L. Leboeuf

### DISTRICT 08 – ALEXANDRIA

Christina Lee Belgard and  
Joseph Paul Montalvo

### DISTRICT 58 – CHASE

None

### DISTRICT 61 – BATON

#### ROUGE

Scott Keith Ashley, Elizabeth  
C. Bogan, Mabel B.  
Dickinson, Troy Lynn  
Douglas, Kenneth Wayne  
Green, Jason A. Hebert and  
Michael James  
Higginbotham

### DISTRICT 62 – HAMMOND

None

## HEADQUARTERS & OTHER

Reinara Lynn Adams,  
Symekialove Almaethia  
Allen, Cherell Amie Banks,  
Cathy Ann Bourgeois,  
Dominique Renell Capote,  
Alberta Dunn Dennis, Gina

Clesi Elliott, James E. Felder,  
Norman J. Frederic Jr.,  
Chrishawn D. Green, Gary  
D. Holmes, Alisha D.  
Johnson, Valerie D. Jones,  
Les Ann Kirkland, Trimell  
Kim Mahogany, Clyde Philip  
Martin Jr., Nakeisha Deanna  
Miller, Ayanna Harris  
Nichols, Derek Clifton Paille,  
Richard Eric Parisi, Brianisha  
R. Polk, Trenell A.  
Richardson, Sadell Ann  
Riley, Larry Junior Robinson,  
Dwayne Paul Theriot, Asha  
Venugopal, Casey Nicole  
Vining, Lutricia Wells, April  
C. Williams and Decola  
Christina Williams

## PROMOTIONS

### DISTRICT 02 – NEW

#### ORLEANS

Richard Courtney, Dennis M.  
Dorsey, James A. Jarrell,  
Stafford Jones, Elsie  
Domangue Leblanc, Daryl P.  
Poche and Diane C. Rome

### DISTRICT 03 – LAFAYETTE

Tance P. Fremin and Mason  
J. Stelly

### DISTRICT 04 – BOSSIER CITY

James Larry Higginbotham,  
Bobby Ray Neal and Robert  
W. Taylor

### DISTRICT 05 – MONROE

Howard E. Reese Jr.

### DISTRICT 07 – LAKE

#### CHARLES

Brenda F. Barber, Clemence  
J. Guidry, Paul D. Holland,  
Shelby L. Moseley, Yvette  
Reneé Richard, Robert J.

Schwark Jr. and Glenn D.  
Theriot

### DISTRICT 08 – ALEXANDRIA

Robbie C. Deters and Walter  
R. Parker Jr.

### DISTRICT 58 – CHASE

Wesley T. Carter, Purvis  
Lighten and Daniel L.  
Stapleton

### DISTRICT 61 – BATON

#### ROUGE

Michael T. Maurello

### DISTRICT 62 – HAMMOND

None

## HEADQUARTERS & OTHER

Patricia Ann Bergeron, Curt  
J. Boniol, Kirt A. Clement,  
Albert Joseph David Jr.,  
Michael Sennett Elliott,  
Christopher A. Fletcher,  
Darlene Denise Francis,  
Gregory A. Gish, Kathleen  
Marie Green, Priscilla Hall,  
Linda Gail Johnson, Marcus  
Anthony Johnson, Barry  
Luke Lacy, Diana D. Lafleur,  
Bridget W. Leblanc, Carol  
Diane McClure, Paul Wayne  
Napoli, Janice S. Parish, Toby  
Dyson Picard, Alvin Marks  
Ray, Richard L. Savoie, Erik  
T. Smith, Paulene Taylor,  
Allisha P. Thomas, Brent P.  
Waguespack and Karen S.  
Woodard

## RETIREMENTS

### DISTRICT 02 – NEW

#### ORLEANS

Alonda Bowens, Willard  
Clofer Jr., Dana M. Duet,  
Doris D. Piehet, Reynold  
James Scott, F.C. Stentz Jr.

and Lucille Ussin

### DISTRICT 03 – LAFAYETTE

None

### DISTRICT 04 – BOSSIER CITY

R.M. Dickerson Jr.

### DISTRICT 05 – MONROE

David Lee McDowell

### DISTRICT 07 – LAKE

#### CHARLES

Philip D. Brown

### DISTRICT 08 – ALEXANDRIA

Reginald M. Dauzat and  
Steve A. Nick

### DISTRICT 58 – CHASE

None

### DISTRICT 61 – BATON

#### ROUGE

Russell D. Battley and Allen  
J. Gautreau

### DISTRICT 62 – HAMMOND

Dennis P. Burke, Ruth C.  
Hill, Ralph Anthony Holmes  
Jr., Lendell Martin and  
Donnie D. Partin

## HEADQUARTERS & OTHER

Salvador J. Agnello, Thomas  
Algere, Joe Thomas Baker,  
James E. Bodker Jr., Cynthia  
M. Brecheen, John Cushman  
Brown Jr., Anna Marie S.  
Burns, Freddie Ray Davis,  
Angele M. Dumestre, Norris  
D. Hood Jr., Noel K. Israel,  
Emily Chollette McCarroll,  
Thurlow W. Parish III, Fred  
A. Rasmussen, Joseph S.  
Recile, Lili P. Spencer, Ann  
M. Watkins and Bonnie S.  
Wintz

## HR HOT TOPICS

### STATE EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION DAY

According to the Governor's Office, Wednesday, May 3, will be designated as State Employee Recognition Day this year. The purpose of this special day is to commend and recognize the hard work and dedication of Louisiana state employees. Headquarters' Human Resources section is currently planning various activities for DOTD headquarters and encourages districts and other DOTD facilities to take this opportunity to honor the outstanding services provided by DOTD employees.

### PERFORMANCE PLANNING AND REVIEW – IMPORTANT DATES

All DOTD rating supervisors must prepare PPR rating forms and conduct performance rating sessions with their direct reports no later than June 30. In order to provide adequate time for review, district/section administrators may establish earlier internal deadlines, but PPRs cannot be issued to employees earlier than May 1. Additionally, PPR planning sessions/documents for the upcoming fiscal year must be completed by Friday, July 14.

### PAY SCHEDULE CHANGES

As a result of the Department of Civil Service's cyclical review of the Labor and Trades (WS) pay schedule, Gov. Blanco approved the recommended changes to that schedule on Feb. 13. The revised structure reflects an increase in all WS pay-range maximums by approximately 14 percent; range minimums remain unchanged. Currently under review is the Technical/Scientific (TS) pay schedule, with recommendations expected to be made to the Civil Service Commission at its July hearing.

### UPDATED CLASS ON WRITING "SMART" PERFORMANCE EXPECTATIONS

A new version of the Writing Performance Expectations class has been developed and will be offered beginning in May. The purpose of this three-hour workshop is to provide rating supervisors with hands-on practice in writing individual PPR expectations that align with section/district fiscal year goals and performance measures.

### CIVIL SERVICE PROVIDES NEW SERVICES FOR JOB SEEKERS

The Department of Civil Service recently added a link on its Web site: "Update Your Records." This link allows job applicants and employees to access downloadable forms to update the following: applicant's name, address, parishes available to work in, and preference on type of appointments. On the same Web page, employees can request a copy of their most recent Civil Service application. This site can be accessed at [www.dscs.state.la.us/default.htm](http://www.dscs.state.la.us/default.htm).



Dear Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development,

The Webster Parish Sheriff's Office would like to extend our thanks and gratitude to each of your employees for the prompt and professional services rendered Sunday night, Feb. 19, when the parish was hit by freezing conditions that caused bridges and overpasses to become impassable and dangerous not only to our residents, but also to passing motorists from visiting parishes and states. We as law enforcement personnel appreciate the speedy response from your department that night. Within the hour of notifying your department, activity was observed, and, shortly afterward, salt was being spread on our interstate and state highways.

It's a pleasure to have such a good working relationship within our departments. Your department's response is appreciated. Never hesitate to call if our department can assist you and your department.

Sincerely,  
Gary S. Sexton  
Webster Parish Sheriff

# MAILBAG



A HAPPY  
NEW YEAR



THANK YOU, D.O.T.D.,

*for helping our employees with housing by providing these trailers  
and the hotel rooms for us. We deeply appreciate it.*

*In this season of giving, may we all benefit from the spirit of love  
and generosity that went into this endeavor.*

*Your Employees*

*Buffy Schaubert  
La'asha Siz  
Chianti C. Barrow  
Yalatea Williams  
Linda Anderson  
Herman Gully  
Joseph J. Nance  
Penny Coleman Jr.  
Anna Boyle*

*Yvonne Jones  
Josephine W. Hayes  
Scott  
Jane Z. Gonzales  
James J. Jansel  
Jane M. Gonzales  
John J. Jansel Jr.  
Ernest D. Johnson  
S. R. Jones*

*Thank you all so very much! This check  
has really come in handy. May God bless  
you all.*

*Linda Melancon  
District 02, Gang 910*

*P.S. Very special thanks to Mr. Bradberry*

**(Editor's note: This letter was written in response  
to the checks distributed by the DOTD Employee  
Hurricane Relief Fund.)**

Dear Mr. Bradberry,

My name is Kristen Ludwig, and I am from District 02. Currently I am working in District 08 until my FEMA trailer is ready at work. Me and my daughter lost our home due to Hurricane Katrina. As you know, St. Bernard Parish was 100 percent damaged, and that is where our home was. We lost everything in our home, including the ceilings. So I just want to take the time out for you and thank you for collecting donations for us. I was really surprised when I opened that envelope. It is really nice to know that people care about people they have never met.

I know you also had to be strong during Hurricane Katrina. Your decisions and opinions had to be well thought through. Just like Governor Blanco and Mayor Nagin, y'all had the whole New Orleans area depending on you, and I know y'all did the best thing you could do for New Orleans. DOTD has really come through for New Orleans.

Keep up the wonderful job you are doing, and thank you for letting me know we can depend on you in tragic times. Also, District 08 has treated me so good since I've been here. They have a good district administrator; he is very nice and caring of his employees, but at the same time, he gets the job done well. All of the staff that I met are very nice and work well together. I would love to stay in 08 if I felt like I was home, but it's just about time to get to my District 02 family. Thank you so much for caring about us.

*Sincerely,  
Kristen N. Ludwig*



---

**COMMUTER LINES**

LA DOTD  
Public Affairs  
1201 Capitol Access Road  
P.O. Box 94245  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9245



PRSTD STD  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Baton Rouge, LA  
Permit No. 2351

## DOTD now accepts electronic bids

**D**OTD accepted electronic bids for the first time Jan. 25, marking a step toward an eventually paperless process.

John Oglesby, project control engineer administrator, said 131 bids were opened on 44 projects. And seven, or 5.3 percent, were electronic submissions.

“While the number of contractors who used the process this time is small, we expect a steady increase in the use of the new process because of its benefits,” said Oglesby. “The new process saves time and money by automating actions that had been performed manually and by eliminating the need for contractors to travel to the bid site.”

In the long run, he added, the process will reduce the time required

to input, check and verify bids.

The implementation of electronic bid submissions is the result of a directive last spring by Secretary Johnny B. Bradberry. Oglesby said implementation within six months was the product of concentrated effort by DOTD’s information technology, project control and the contracts and specifications sections.

Bid Express is a Web-based bidding information service developed by BidX.com Inc., a third-party service provider, exclusively for the highway industry through the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, or AASHTO.

The new process works like this: Contractors submit bids to BidX fully encrypted. After the posted bid



receipt time, DOTD downloads the bid and removes the encryption.

DOTD started with a pilot group of 12 contractors who submitted test bids for a variety of project types. Then the department offered six training sessions for 100 contractors in December.

Some 30 states use some part of the Bid Express electronic system, but only a few are already accepting bids only by Internet, Oglesby said.

DOTD will continue to accept bids by both methods for the immediate future, he added.